UNTOLD TALES OF
SPIDER-MAN
1ST ISSUE
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SPIDER-MAN GROUP
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Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN
TO SERVE AND PROTECT?
NOBODY MEDDLES IN MY BUSINESS, SPIDER-MAN! YOU STICK YOUR NOSE IN --
-- YOU GET IT BURNED OFF!
HEY, HEY! IS THIS "CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR BASIC SAFETY" NIGHT, OR WHAT?
THIS ISN'T JUST ME OVER HERE, SCORCH -- YOU'RE GONNA FLASH-FRY YOUR OWN HENCH-GUY!
A RE-BORN ERA OF WEB-SLINGING EXCITEMENT FROM
KURT BUSIEK WRITER
PAT OLLIFFE PENCILER
AL VEY INKER
RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING
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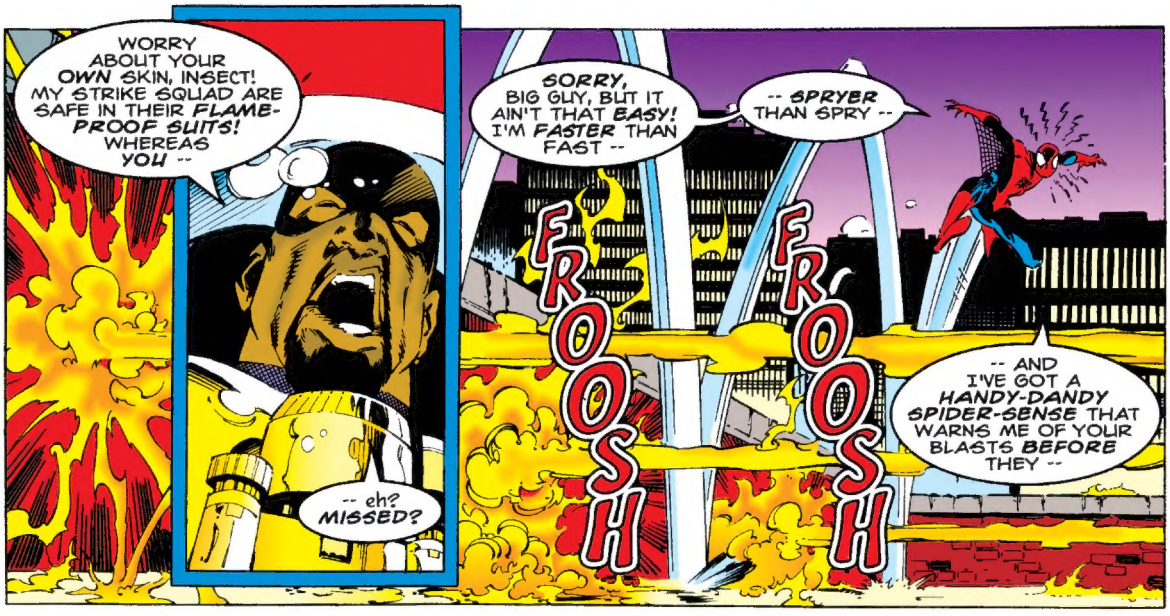
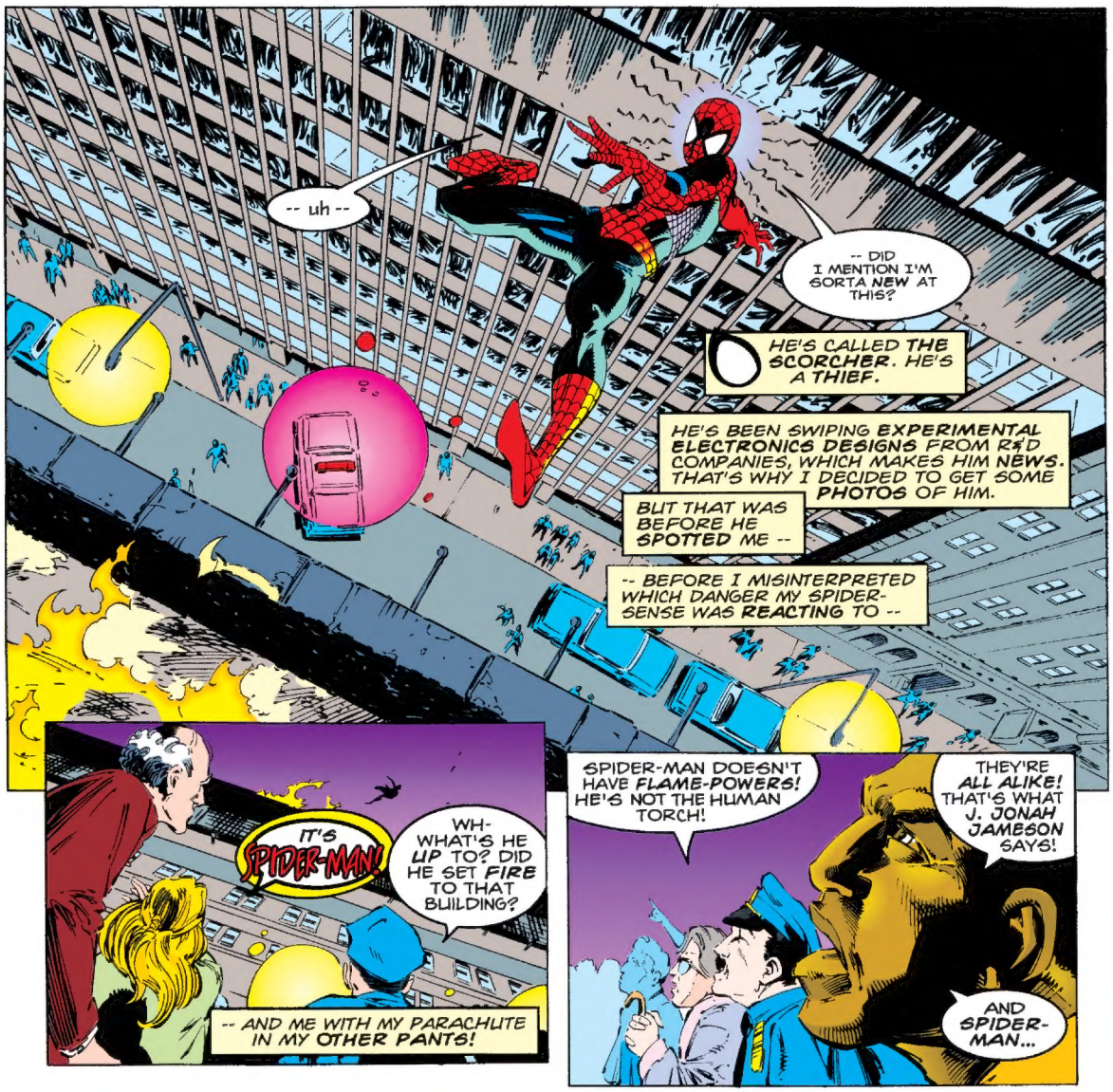
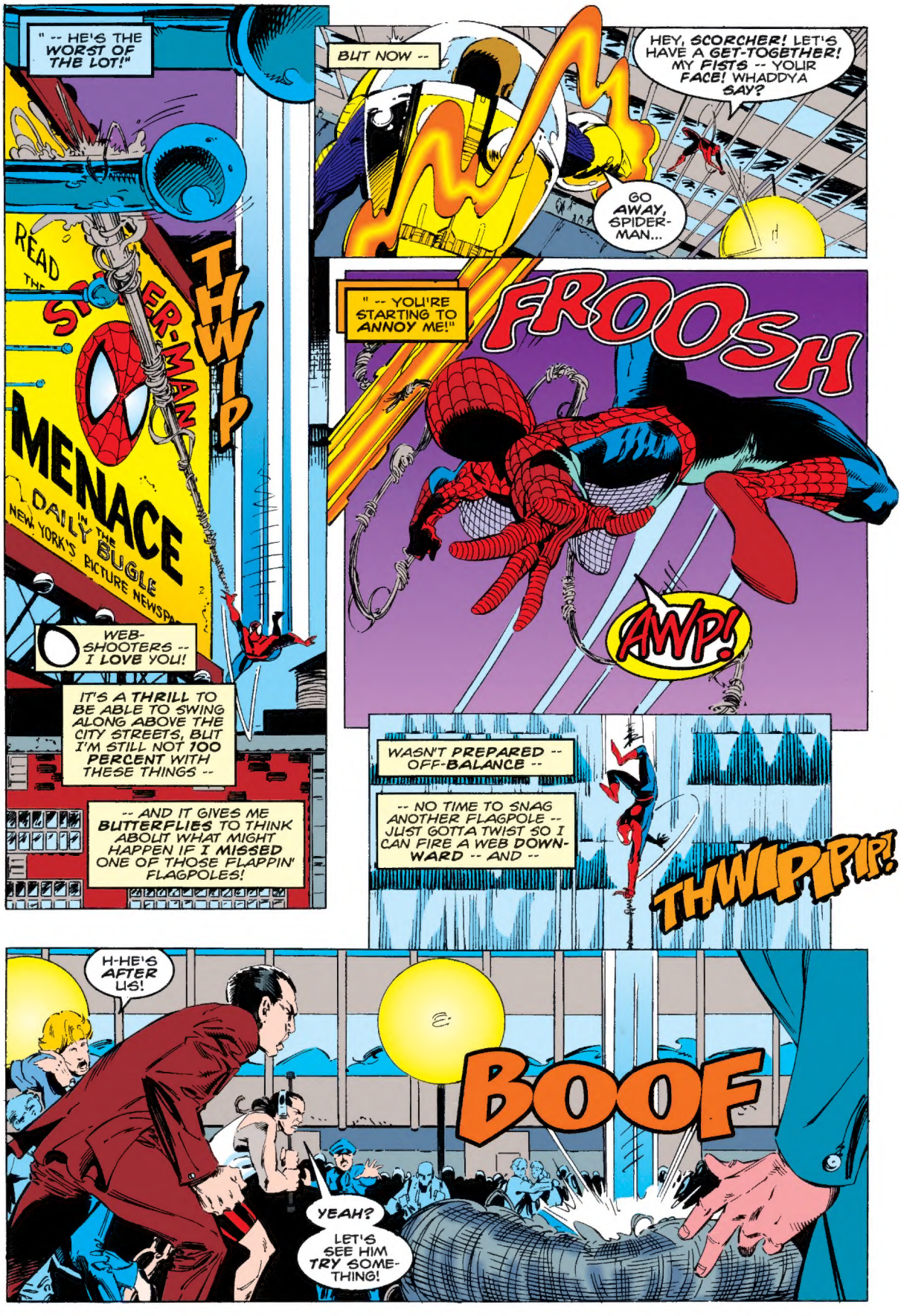
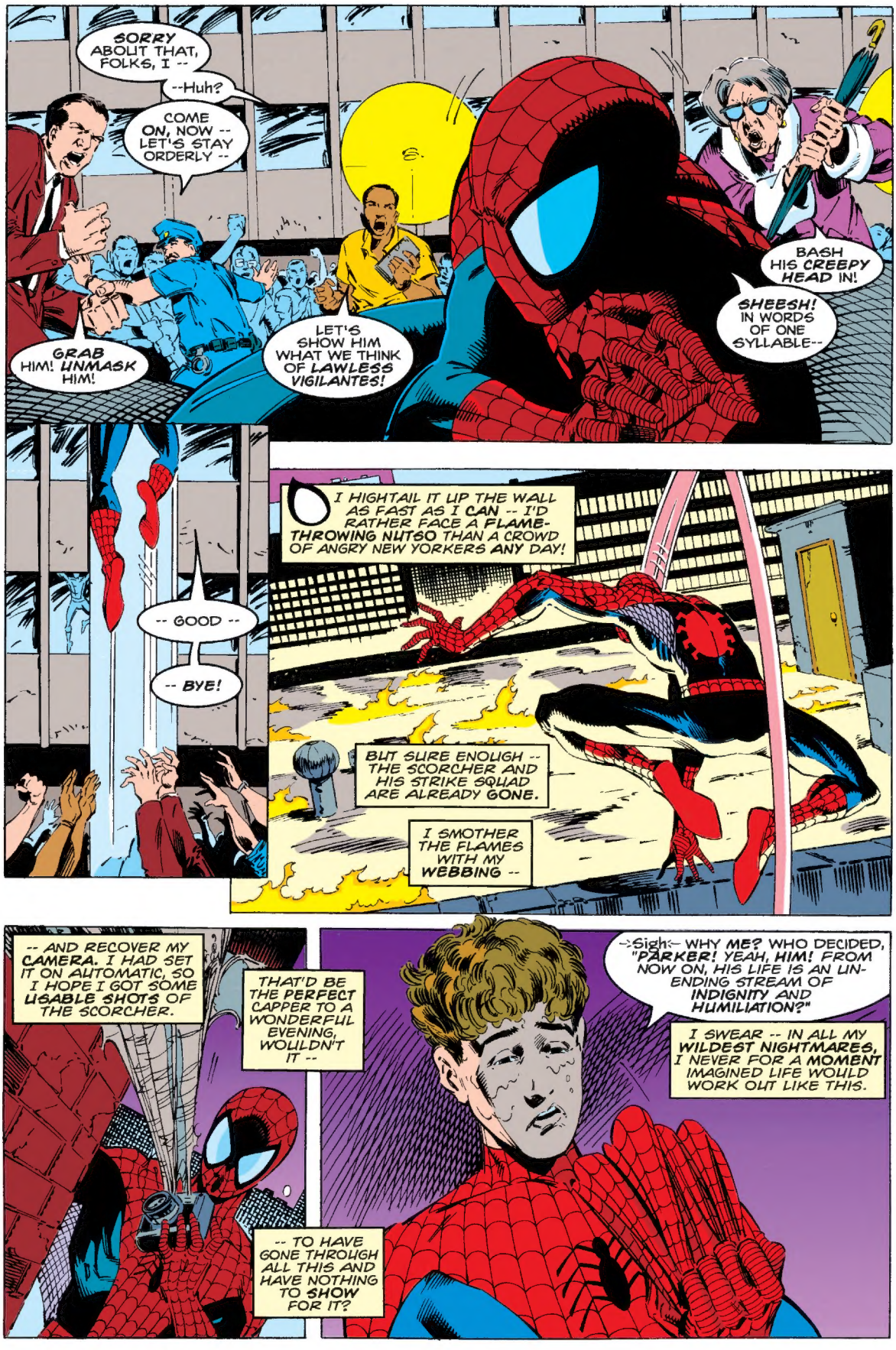
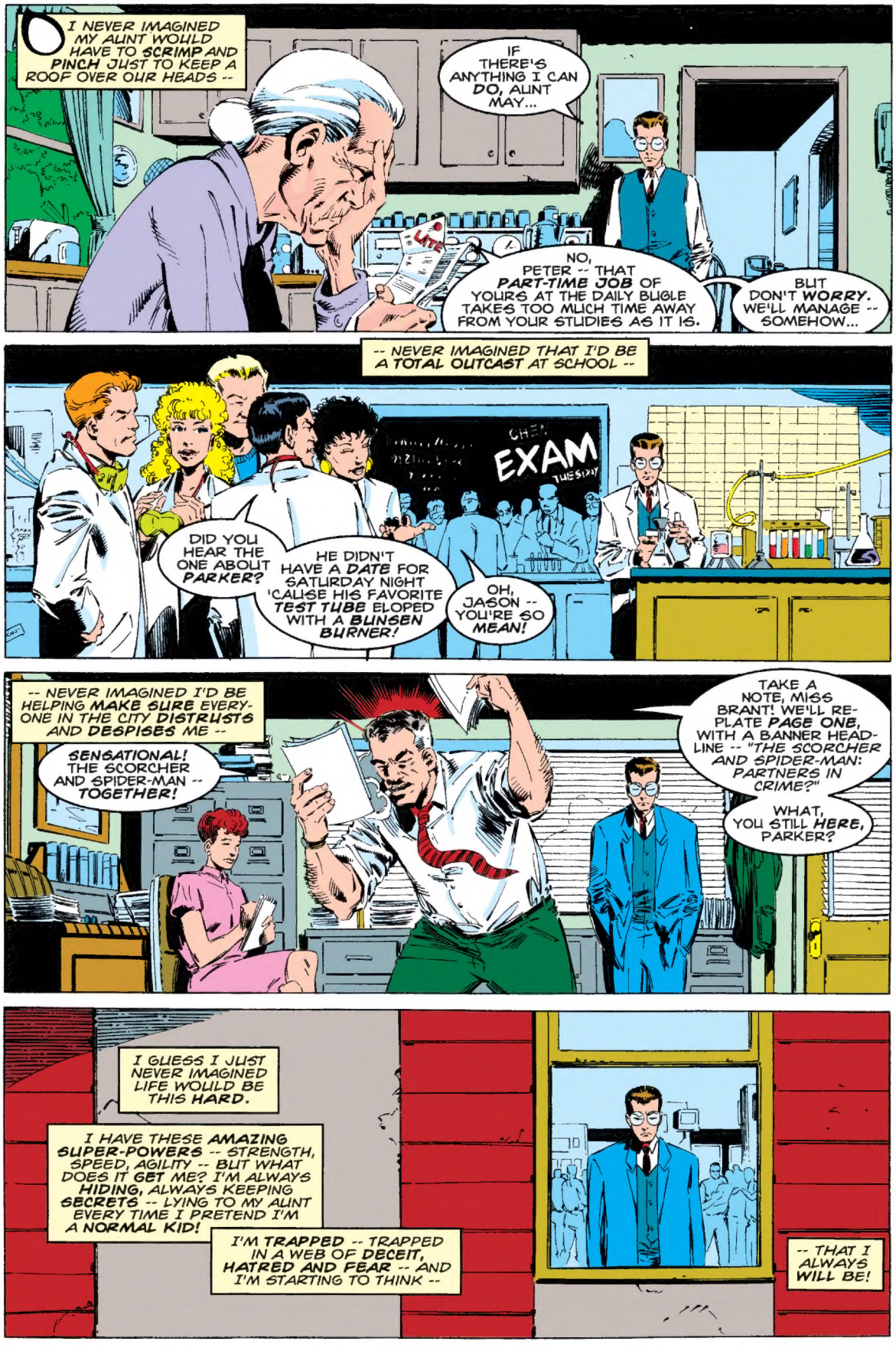
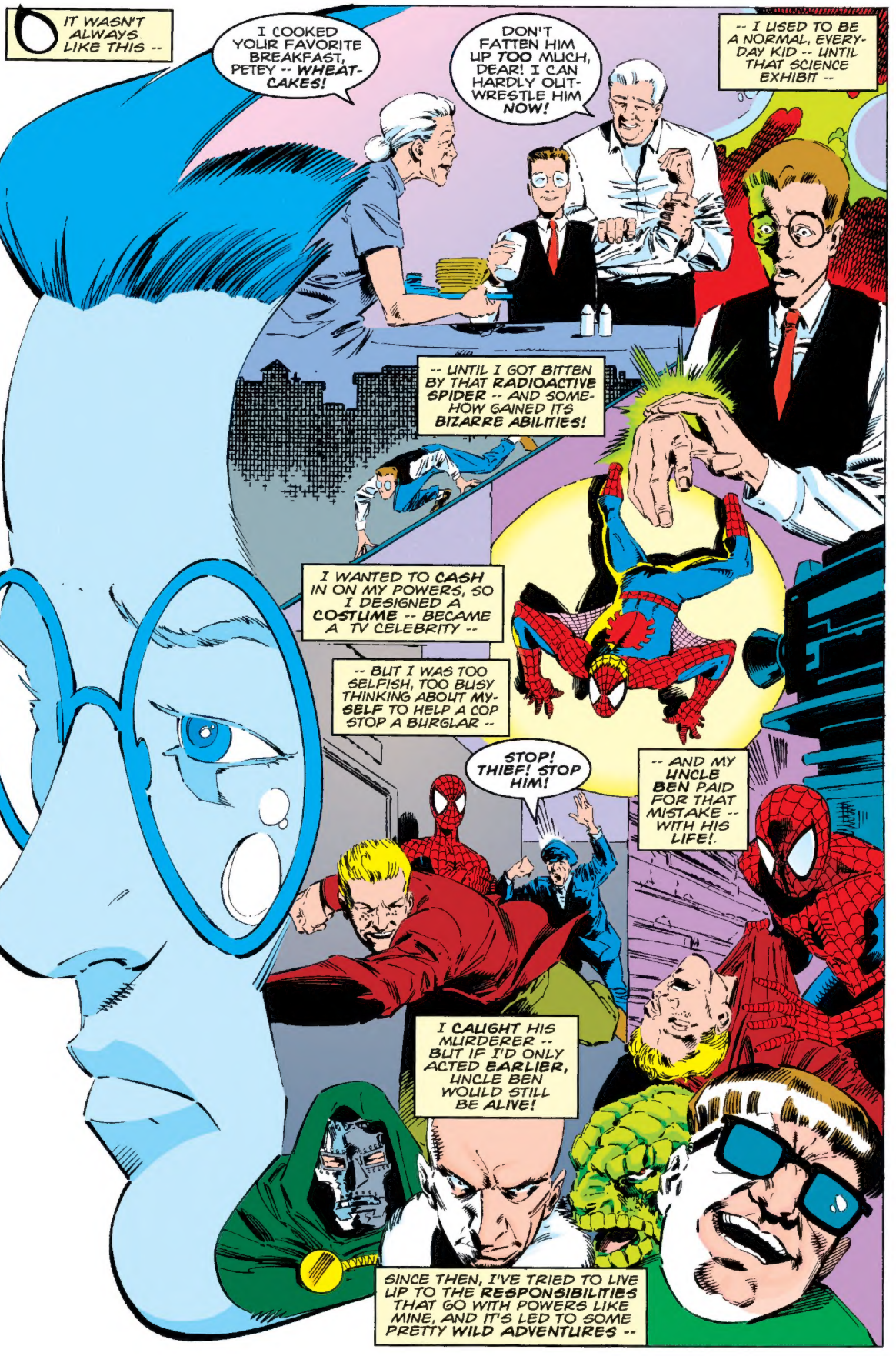

WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN SKIN, INSECT! MY STRIKE SQUAD ARE SAFE IN THEIR FLAME-PROOF SUITS! WHEREAS YOU --
-- eh? MISSED?
SORRY, BIG GUY, BUT IT AIN'T THAT EASY! I'M FASTER THAN FAST --
-- SPRYER THAN SPRY --
FROOSH
FROOSH
-- AND I'VE GOT A HANDY-DANDY SPIDER-SENSE THAT WARNS ME OF YOUR BLASTS BEFORE THEY --

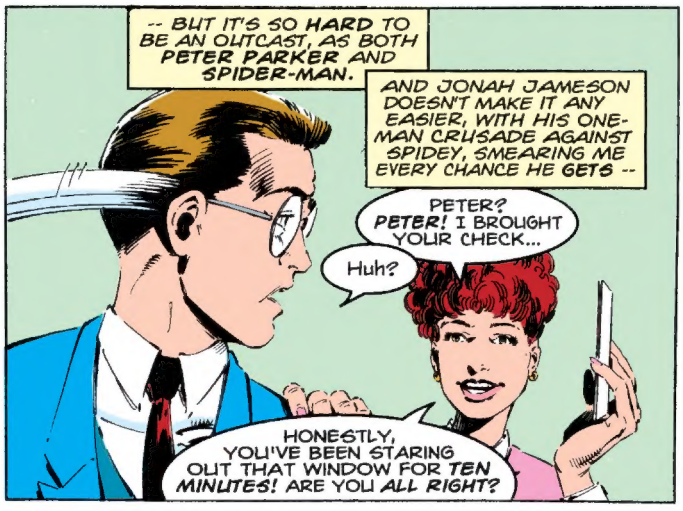

-- uh --
-- DID I MENTION I'M SORTA NEW AT THIS?
HE'S CALLED THE SCORCHER. HE'S A THIEF.
HE'S BEEN SWIPING EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONICS DESIGNS FROM R&D COMPANIES, WHICH MAKES HIM NEWS. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO GET SOME PHOTOS OF HIM.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE SPOTTED ME --
-- BEFORE I MISINTERPRETED WHICH DANGER MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS REACTING TO --
IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
WH-WHAT'S HE UP TO? DID HE SET FIRE TO THAT BUILDING?
-- AND ME WITH MY PARACHUTE IN MY OTHER PANTS!
SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T HAVE FLAME-POWERS! HE'S NOT THE HUMAN TORCH!
THEY'RE ALL ALIKE! THAT'S WHAT J. JONAH JAMESON SAYS!
AND SPIDER-MAN...


" -- HE'S THE WORST OF THE LOT!"
READ THE SPIDER-MAN
MENACE
DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPA
THWIP
WEB-SHOOTERS -- I LOVE YOU!
IT'S A THRILL TO BE ABLE TO SWING ALONG ABOVE THE CITY STREETS, BUT I'M STILL NOT 100 PERCENT WITH THESE THINGS --
-- AND IT GIVES ME BUTTERFLIES TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I MISSED ONE OF THOSE FLAPPIN' FLAGPOLES!
BUT NOW --
HEY, SCORCHER! LET'S HAVE A GET-TOGETHER! MY FISTS -- YOUR FACE! WHADDYA SAY?
GO AWAY, SPIDER-MAN...
" -- YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME!"
FROOSH
AWP!
WASN'T PREPARED -- OFF-BALANCE --
-- NO TIME TO SNAG ANOTHER FLAGPOLE -- JUST GOTTA TWIST SO I CAN FIRE A WEB DOWN-WARD -- AND --
THWIPIPIP!
H-HE'S AFTER US!
YEAH?
LET'S SEE HIM TRY SOME-THING!
BOOF

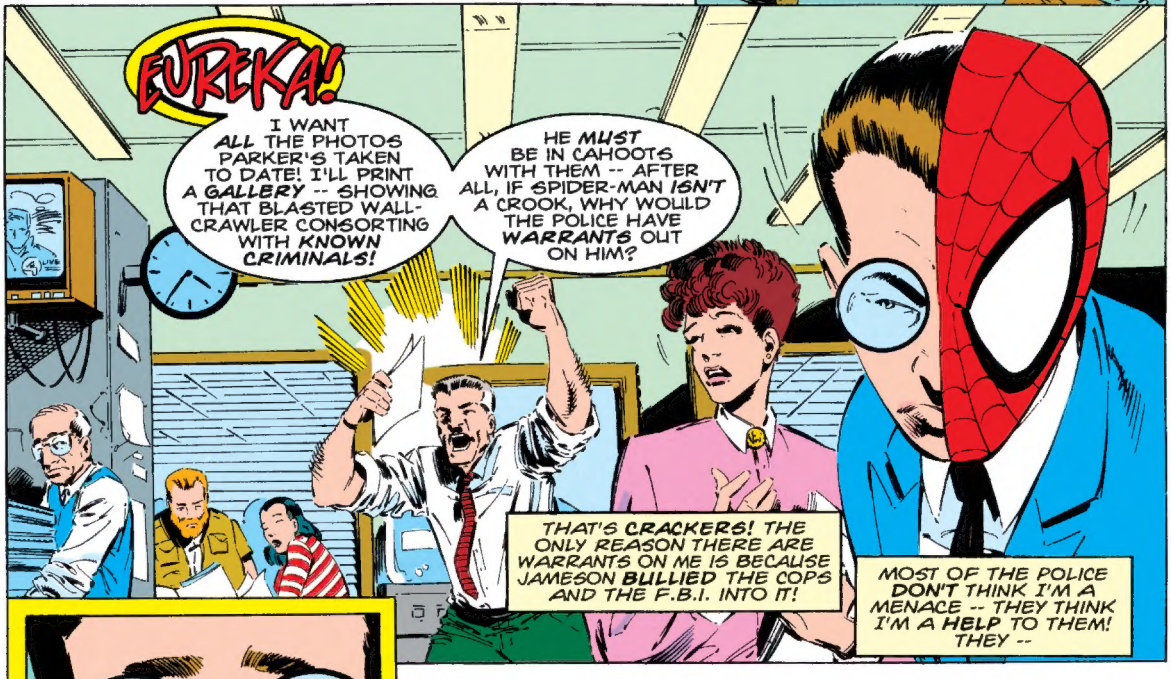

SORRY ABOUT THAT, FOLKS, I --
--Huh?
COME ON, NOW -- LET'S STAY ORDERLY --
GRAB HIM! UNMASK HIM!
LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT WE THINK OF LAWLESS VIGILANTES!
BASH HIS CREEPY HEAD IN!
SHEESH! IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE--
-- GOOD --
-- BYE!
I HIGHTAIL IT UP THE WALL AS FAST AS I CAN -- I'D RATHER FACE A FLAME-THROWING NUTSO THAN A CROWD OF ANGRY NEW YORKERS ANY DAY!
BUT SURE ENOUGH -- THE SCORCHER AND HIS STRIKE SQUAD ARE ALREADY GONE.
I SMOTHER THE FLAMES WITH MY WEBBING --
-- AND RECOVER MY CAMERA. I HAD SET IT ON AUTOMATIC, SO I HOPE I GOT SOME USABLE SHOTS OF THE SCORCHER.
THAT'D BE THE PERFECT CAPPER TO A WONDERFUL EVENING, WOULDN'T IT --
-- TO HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS AND HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT?
-Sigh- WHY ME? WHO DECIDED, "PARKER! YEAH, HIM! FROM NOW ON, HIS LIFE IS AN UN-ENDING STREAM OF INDIGNITY AND HUMILIATION?"
I SWEAR -- IN ALL MY WILDEST NIGHTMARES, I NEVER FOR A MOMENT IMAGINED LIFE WOULD WORK OUT LIKE THIS.

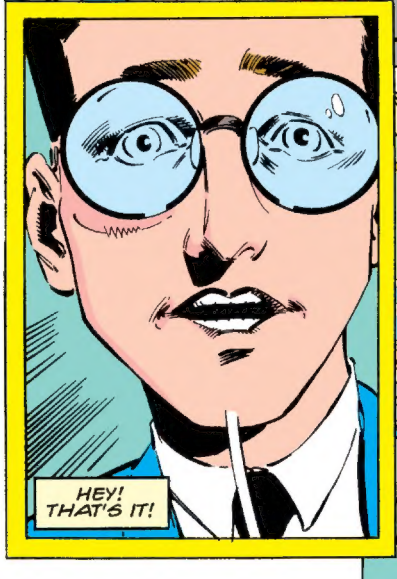

I NEVER IMAGINED MY AUNT WOULD HAVE TO SCRIMP AND PINCH JUST TO KEEP A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS --
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, AUNT MAY...
NO, PETER -- THAT PART-TIME JOB OF YOURS AT THE DAILY BUGLE TAKES TOO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES AS IT IS.
BUT DON'T WORRY. WE'LL MANAGE -- SOMEHOW...
-- NEVER IMAGINED THAT I'D BE A TOTAL OUTCAST AT SCHOOL --
EXAM
DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT PARKER?
HE DIDN'T HAVE A DATE FOR SATURDAY NIGHT 'CAUSE HIS FAVORITE TEST TUBE ELOPED WITH A BUNSEN BURNER!
OH, JASON -- YOU'RE SO MEAN!
-- NEVER IMAGINED I'D BE HELPING MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN THE CITY DISTRUSTS AND DESPISES ME --
SENSATIONAL! THE SCORCHER AND SPIDER-MAN -- TOGETHER!
TAKE A NOTE, MISS BRANT! WE'LL REPLATE PAGE ONE, WITH A BANNER HEADLINE -- "THE SCORCHER AND SPIDER-MAN: PARTNERS IN CRIME?"
WHAT, YOU STILL HERE, PARKER?
I GUESS I JUST NEVER IMAGINED LIFE WOULD BE THIS HARD.
I HAVE THESE AMAZING SUPER-POWERS -- STRENGTH, SPEED, AGILITY -- BUT WHAT DOES IT GET ME? I'M ALWAYS HIDING, ALWAYS KEEPING SECRETS -- LYING TO MY AUNT EVERY TIME I PRETEND I'M A NORMAL KID!
I'M TRAPPED -- TRAPPED IN A WEB OF DECEIT, HATRED AND FEAR -- AND I'M STARTING TO THINK --
-- THAT I ALWAYS WILL BE!

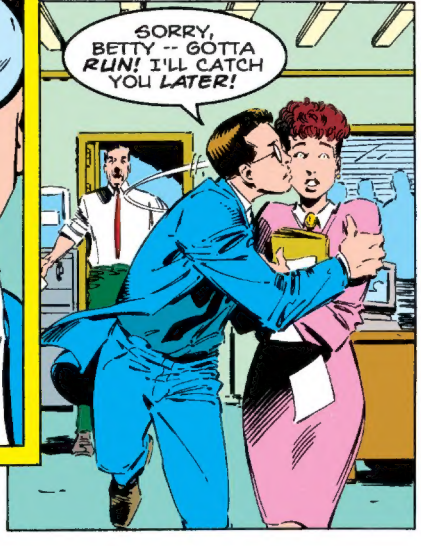

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS --
I COOKED YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST, PETEY -- WHEAT-CAKES!
DON'T FATTEN HIM UP TOO MUCH, DEAR! I CAN HARDLY OUT-WRESTLE HIM NOW!
-- I USED TO BE A NORMAL, EVERY-DAY KID -- UNTIL THAT SCIENCE EXHIBIT --
-- UNTIL I GOT BITTEN BY THAT RADIOACTIVE SPIDER -- AND SOME-HOW GAINED ITS BIZARRE ABILITIES!
I WANTED TO CASH IN ON MY POWERS, SO I DESIGNED A COSTUME -- BECAME A TV CELEBRITY --
-- BUT I WAS TOO SELFISH, TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT MY-SELF TO HELP A COP STOP A BURGLAR --
STOP! THIEF! STOP HIM!
-- AND MY UNCLE BEN PAID FOR THAT MISTAKE -- WITH HIS LIFE!
I CAUGHT HIS MURDERER -- BUT IF I'D ONLY ACTED EARLIER, UNCLE BEN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!
SINCE THEN, I'VE TRIED TO LIVE UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO WITH POWERS LIKE MINE, AND IT'S LED TO SOME PRETTY WILD ADVENTURES --


-- BUT IT'S SO HARD TO BE AN OUTCAST, AS BOTH PETER PARKER AND SPIDER-MAN.
AND JONAH JAMESON DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER, WITH HIS ONE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST SPIDEY, SMEARING ME EVERY CHANCE HE GETS --
PETER? PETER! I BROUGHT YOUR CHECK...
Huh?
HONESTLY, YOU'VE BEEN STARING OUT THAT WINDOW FOR TEN MINUTES! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

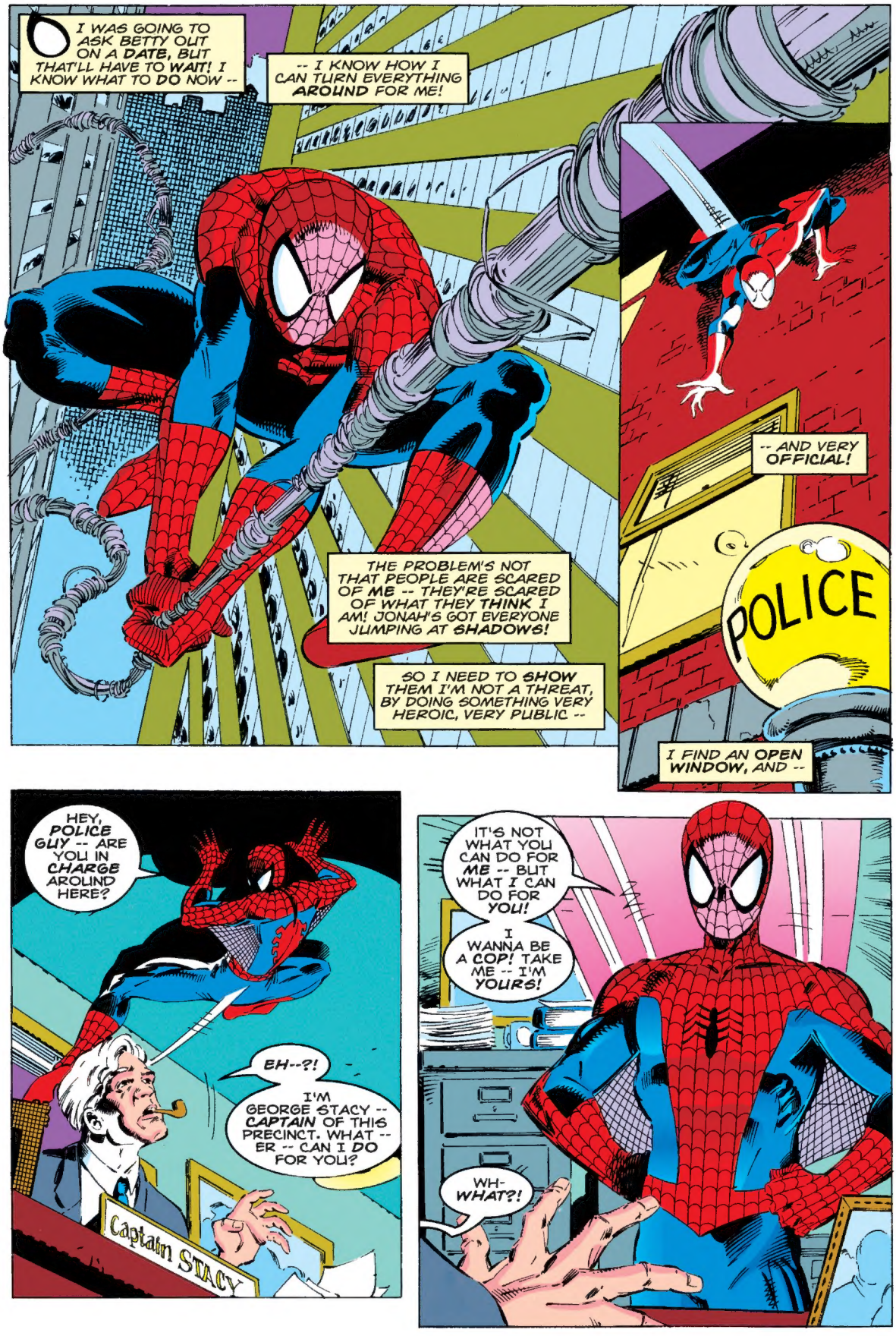
Oh, uh, SURE, BETTY -- I WAS JUST, UH, WOOL-GATHERING. UM, LISTEN, BETTY -- THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU --
YES, PETER?
WOULD YOU -- I MEAN, DO YOU THINK WE COULD --

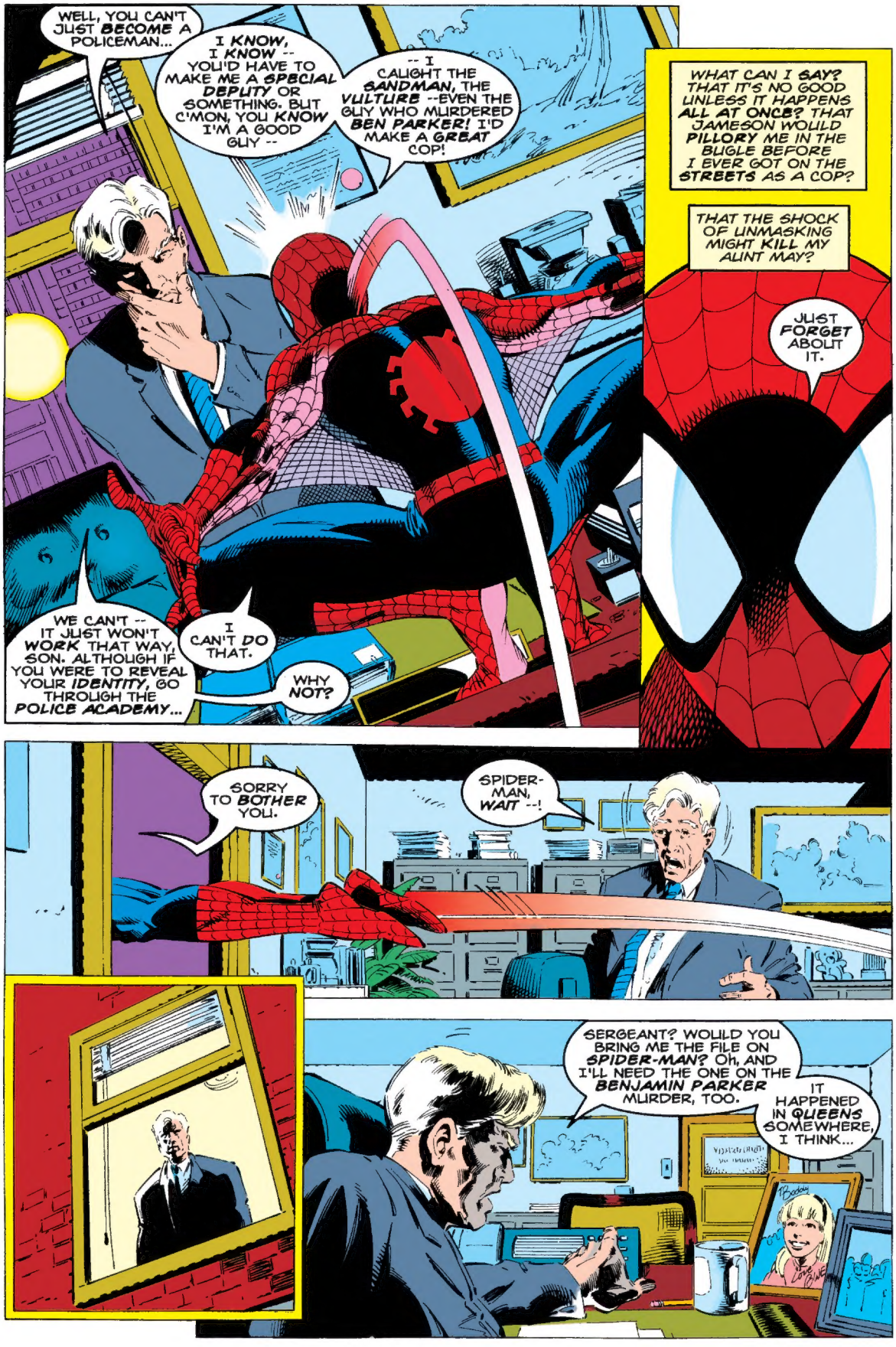

EUREKA!
I WANT ALL THE PHOTOS PARKER'S TAKEN TO DATE! I'LL PRINT A GALLERY -- SHOWING THAT BLASTED WALL-CRAWLER CONSORTING WITH KNOWN CRIMINALS!
HE MUST BE IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM -- AFTER ALL, IF SPIDER-MAN ISN'T A CROOK, WHY WOULD THE POLICE HAVE WARRANTS OUT ON HIM?
THAT'S CRACKERS! THE ONLY REASON THERE ARE WARRANTS ON ME IS BECAUSE JAMESON BULLIED THE COPS AND THE F.B.I. INTO IT!
MOST OF THE POLICE DON'T THINK I'M A MENACE -- THEY THINK I'M A HELP TO THEM! THEY --

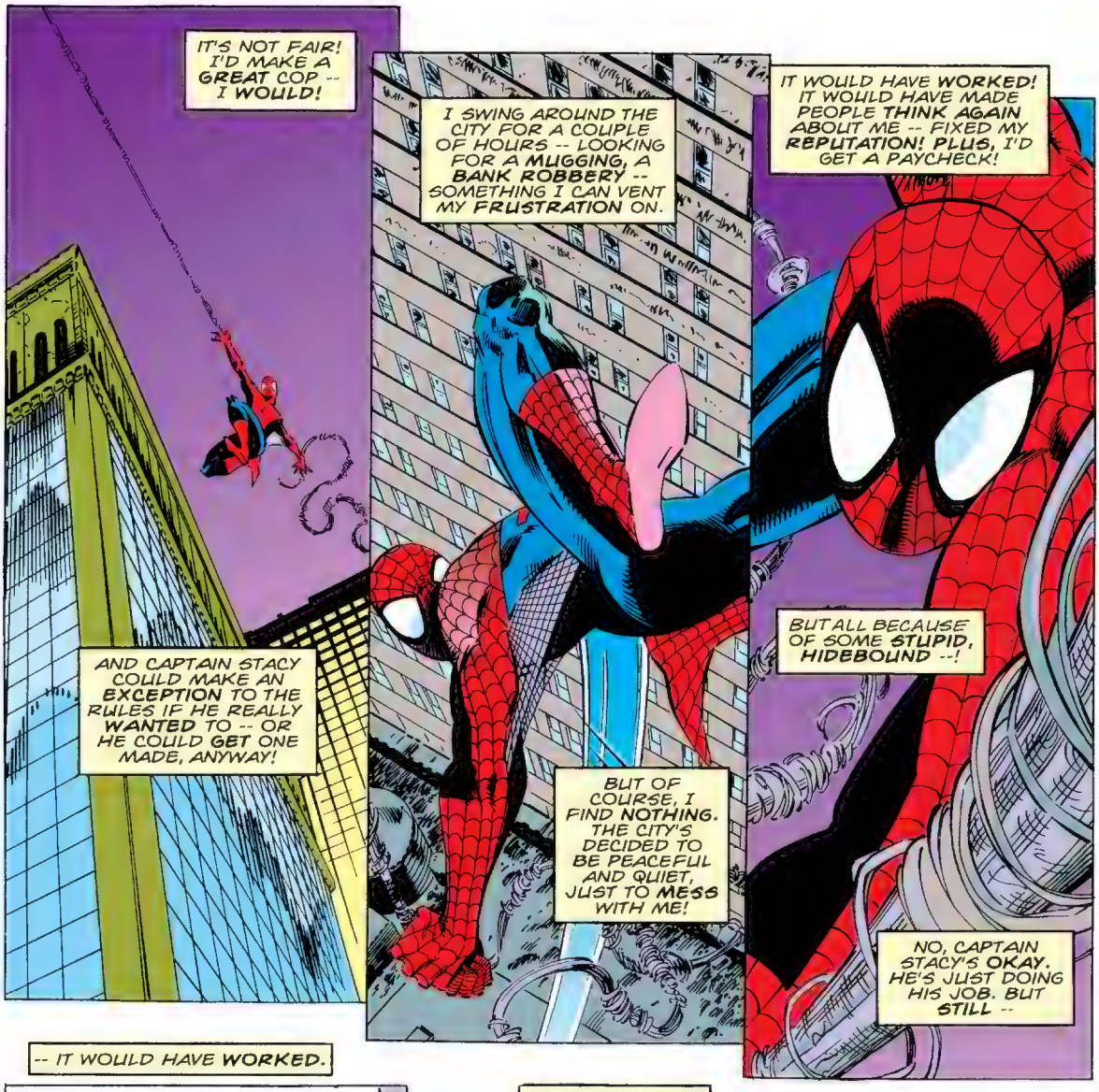

HEY! THAT'S IT!


SORRY, BETTY -- GOTTA RUN! I'LL CATCH YOU LATER!

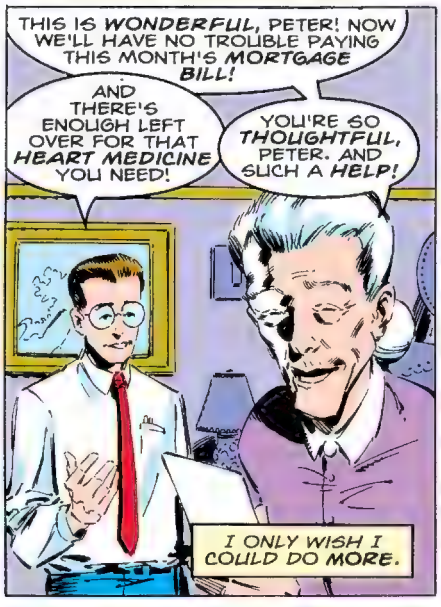
WELL, MISS BRANT? DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE AN EMPTY-HEADED TEENAGER!
THIS IS AN OFFICE, NOT A MALT SHOPPE!


I WAS GOING TO ASK BETTY OUT ON A DATE, BUT THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT! I KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW --
-- I KNOW HOW I CAN TURN EVERYTHING AROUND FOR ME!
THE PROBLEM'S NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE SCARED OF ME -- THEY'RE SCARED OF WHAT THEY THINK I AM! JONAH'S GOT EVERYONE JUMPING AT SHADOWS!
SO I NEED TO SHOW THEM I'M NOT A THREAT, BY DOING SOMETHING VERY HEROIC, VERY PUBLIC --
-- AND VERY OFFICIAL!
POLICE
I FIND AN OPEN WINDOW, AND --
HEY, POLICE GUY -- ARE YOU IN CHARGE AROUND HERE?
EH--?!
I'M GEORGE STACY -- CAPTAIN OF THIS PRECINCT. WHAT -- ER -- CAN I DO FOR YOU?
Captain STACY
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR ME -- BUT WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU!
I WANNA BE A COP! TAKE ME -- I'M YOURS!
WH-WHAT?!


WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST BECOME A POLICEMAN...
I KNOW, I KNOW -- YOU'D HAVE TO MAKE ME A SPECIAL DEPUTY OR SOMETHING. BUT C'MON, YOU KNOW I'M A GOOD GUY --
-- I CAUGHT THE SANDMAN, THE VULTURE --EVEN THE GUY WHO MURDERED BEN PARKER! I'D MAKE A GREAT COP!
WHAT CAN I SAY? THAT IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS IT HAPPENS ALL AT ONCE? THAT JAMESON WOULD PILLORY ME IN THE BUGLE BEFORE I EVER GOT ON THE STREETS AS A COP?
THAT THE SHOCK OF UNMASKING MIGHT KILL MY AUNT MAY?
JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.
WE CAN'T -- IT JUST WON'T WORK THAT WAY, SON. ALTHOUGH IF YOU WERE TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY, GO THROUGH THE POLICE ACADEMY...
I CAN'T DO THAT.
WHY NOT?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
SPIDER-MAN, WAIT --!
SERGEANT? WOULD YOU BRING ME THE FILE ON SPIDER-MAN? OH, AND I'LL NEED THE ONE ON THE BENJAMIN PARKER MURDER, TOO.
IT HAPPENED IN QUEENS SOMEWHERE, I THINK...

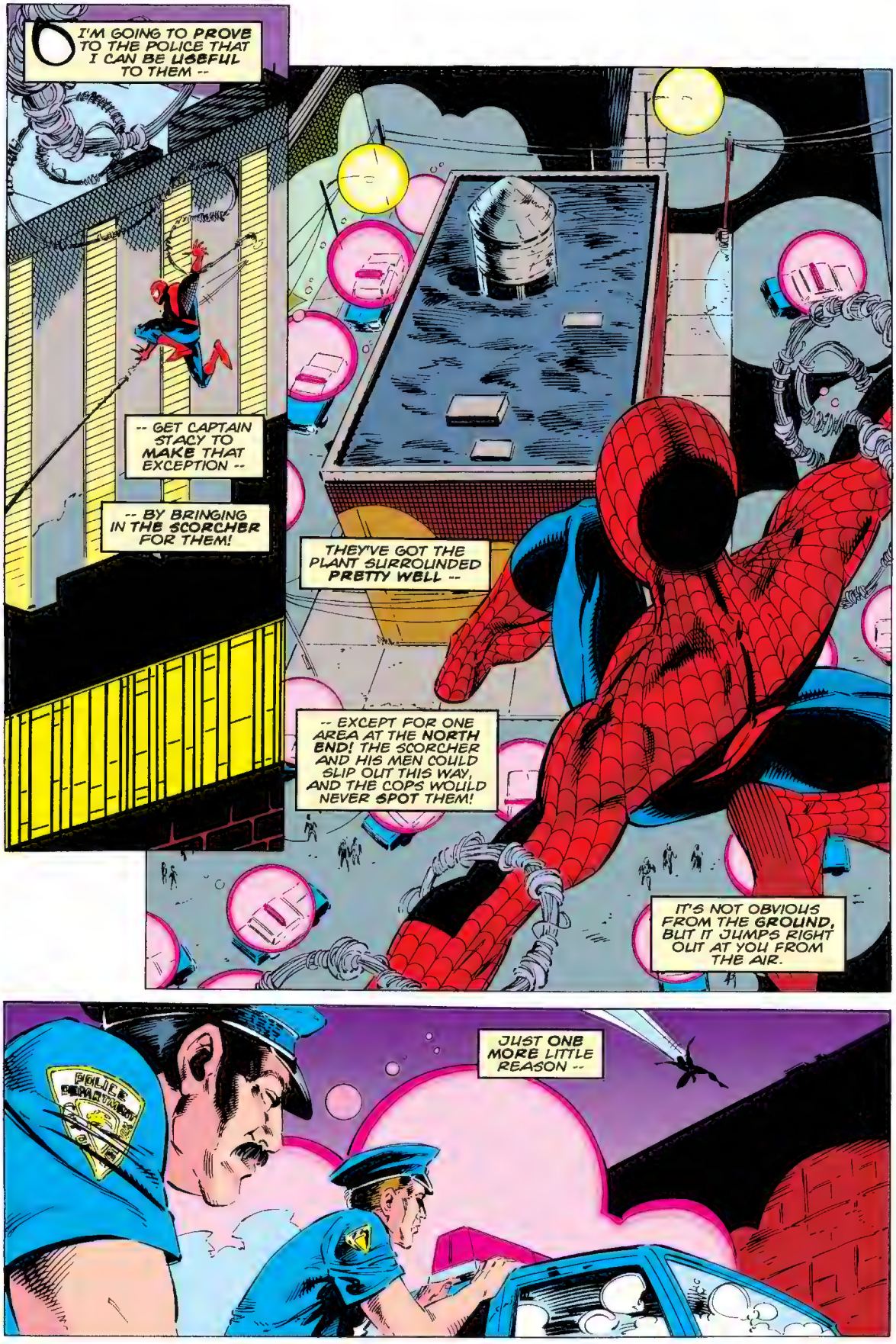

IT'S NOT FAIR! I'D MAKE A GREAT COP -- I WOULD!
I SWING AROUND THE CITY FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS -- LOOKING FOR A MUGGING, A BANK ROBBERY -- SOMETHING I CAN VENT MY FRUSTRATION ON.
IT WOULD HAVE WORKED! IT WOULD HAVE MADE PEOPLE THINK AGAIN ABOUT ME -- FIXED MY REPUTATION! PLUS, I'D GET A PAYCHECK!
AND CAPTAIN STACY COULD MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULES IF HE REALLY WANTED TO -- OR HE COULD GET ONE MADE, ANYWAY!
BUT ALL BECAUSE OF SOME STUPID, HIDEBOUND --!
BUT OF COURSE, I FIND NOTHING. THE CITY'S DECIDED TO BE PEACEFUL AND QUIET, JUST TO MESS WITH ME!
NO, CAPTAIN STACY'S OKAY. HE'S JUST DOING HIS JOB. BUT STILL --

-- IT WOULD HAVE WORKED.


THIS IS WONDERFUL, PETER! NOW WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE PAYING THIS MONTH'S MORTGAGE BILL!
AND THERE'S ENOUGH LEFT OVER FOR THAT HEART MEDICINE YOU NEED!
YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL, PETER. AND SUCH A HELP!
I ONLY WISH I COULD DO MORE.

AND I COULD HAVE, IF ONLY --
-- DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAIN KNOWN ONLY AS THE SCORCHER FLED POLICE -- AND HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN AN EAST SIDE CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE!
HUH?
POLICE HAVE THE AREA CORDONED OFF, AND ARE REQUESTING THAT MOTORISTS AVOID THE AREA OF --

I, AH, JUST REMEMBERED, AUNT MAY -- I LEFT A BOOK AT THE BUGLE OFFICE, AND I NEED IT FOR MY HOMEWORK!
I'LL GRAB A BURGER OR SOMETHING FOR DINNER! DON'T WAIT UP!
GOODNESS!


I'M GOING TO PROVE TO THE POLICE THAT I CAN BE USEFUL TO THEM --
-- GET CAPTAIN STACY TO MAKE THAT EXCEPTION --
-- BY BRINGING IN THE SCORCHER FOR THEM!
THEY'VE GOT THE PLANT SURROUNDED PRETTY WELL --
-- EXCEPT FOR ONE AREA AT THE NORTH END! THE SCORCHER AND HIS MEN COULD SLIP OUT THIS WAY, AND THE COPS WOULD NEVER SPOT THEM!
IT'S NOT OBVIOUS FROM THE GROUND, BUT IT JUMPS RIGHT OUT AT YOU FROM THE AIR.
JUST ONE MORE LITTLE REASON --
POLICE DEPARTMENT

-- THEY NEED SOMEONE LIKE ME!
I-I DON'T LIKE THIS, SCORCHER! THERE'S COPS ALL OVER THE PLACE -- HOW'RE WE GONNA GET OUT?
MARC, MARC, MARC! YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO RELAX!
WE'VE COMPLETED ALL OUR ROBBERIES, AND WE'RE READY TO HAND OVER THE SCHEMATICS AND CASH IN! DON'T WORRY --
-- EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
Oh, REALLY?
AM I PART OF YOUR PLAN? HOW ABOUT SURRENDER -- IS THAT PART OF YOUR SCHEME?
WHACK
GHUH!
SPIDER-MAN! HE GOT CARL!
FROOSH FROOSH FROOSH
DIDN'T THINK SO!
WELL, THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS, BIG GUY --

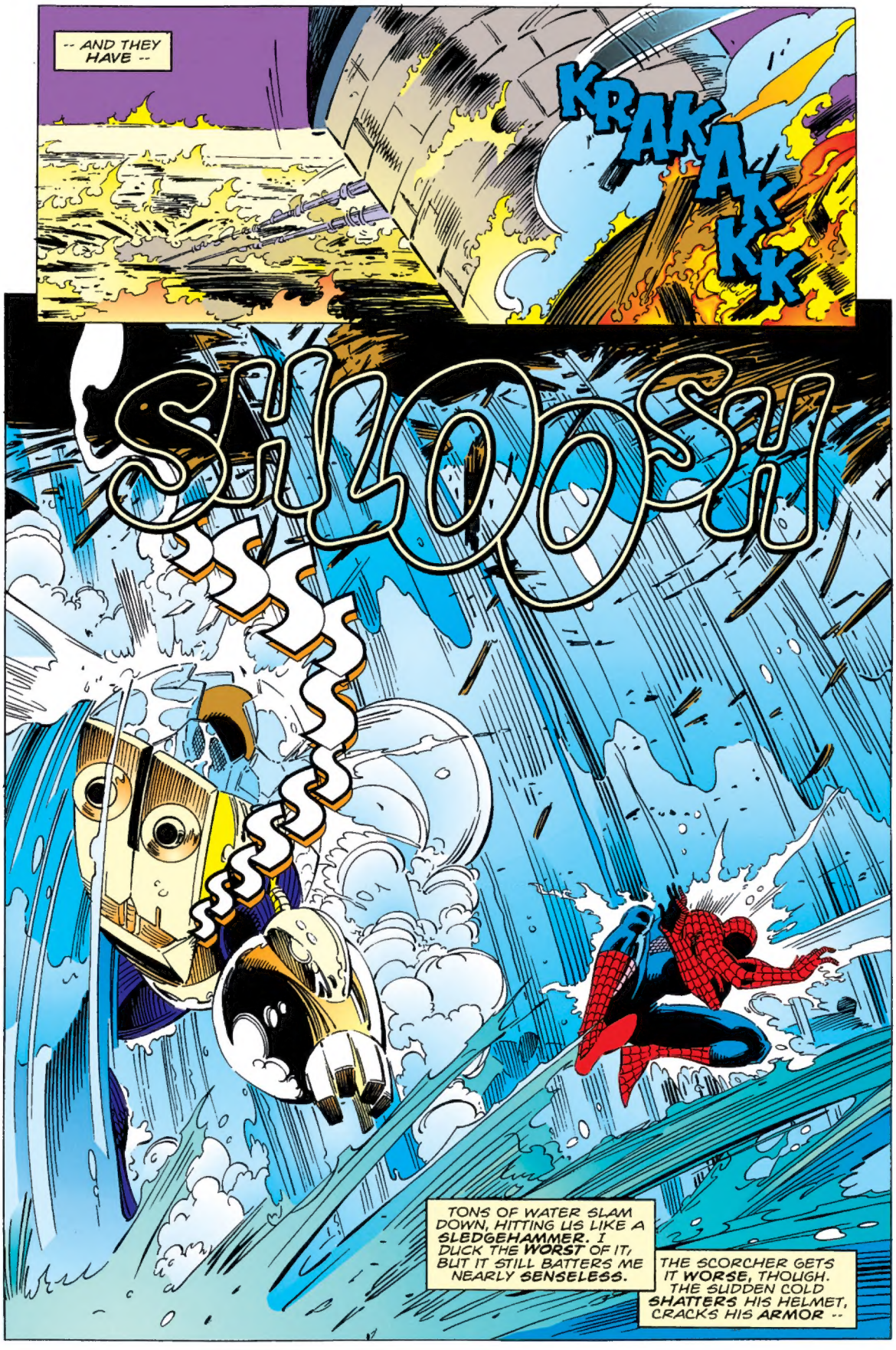
-- YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
YOU'RE JOKING, SPIDER-MAN!
FROOSH FROOSH
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DODGE MY FLAME-BLASTS FOR A MINUTE OR TWO -- BUT I ONLY NEED TO HIT YOU ONCE!
-- MAYBE THIS WASN'T AS GOOD AN IDEA AS I THOUGHT...
HE HAS A POINT -- THIS ISN'T LIKE THE ROOFTOP LAST NIGHT! IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE LIKE THIS, IT'S HARDER TO DODGE -- AND THE HEAT --
-- IT'S TURNING INTO AN OVEN HERE!
GRAB HIM! HOLD HIM DOWN -- SO THE BOSS CAN FINISH HIM OFF!
HEY, WHAT IS THIS? I HAVE TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY OF THE FLAMES, BUT YOUR FIREPROOF SUITS LET YOU COME AT ME FROM ANY DIRECTION?
AND YOU CALL THAT FAIR?
I'LL SHUT YOUR YAPPING MOUTH, SMART GUY!
YOU WILL? HOW -- LIKE THIS?
WRAK
I'VE GOT HIM! I'VE -- Huh?
WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT --
-- THE EVIDENCE!
IN THAT FLAME-PROOF BRIEF-CASE, IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE UNTIL THE BATTLE'S OVER!
CORDON TO DISPATCH -- GET CAPTAIN STACY ON THE HORN, WILLYA?
WE'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM HERE...

I CAN'T TELL WHERE ANYTHING IS. THE FLAMES, THROWING GIANT, SHIFTING SHADOWS -- THE SMOKE OVER EVERYTHING --
-- IT'S LIKE BEING IN SOME HELLISH FUNHOUSE, AND IT GETS TO ME -- I FIND MYSELF PANICKING, LASHING OUT AT NOTHING --
-- UNTIL I FORCE MYSELF TO RELAX -- TO TRUST MY SPIDER-SENSE -- TO STOP DODGING AND START CONNECTING --
-- AND SOON --
WELL, WHADDYA KNOW?
EVERY-ONE'S --Koff:-- DOWN FOR THE COUNT!
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME! COME ON, THEN!
I TRY TO TAKE A BREATH -- GET SOME AIR -- BUT IT'S SO HOT -- SEARING --
KOFF KOFF
I'VE GOT TO END THIS --
-- BEFORE I CAN'T BREATHE AT ALL!
COME ON!

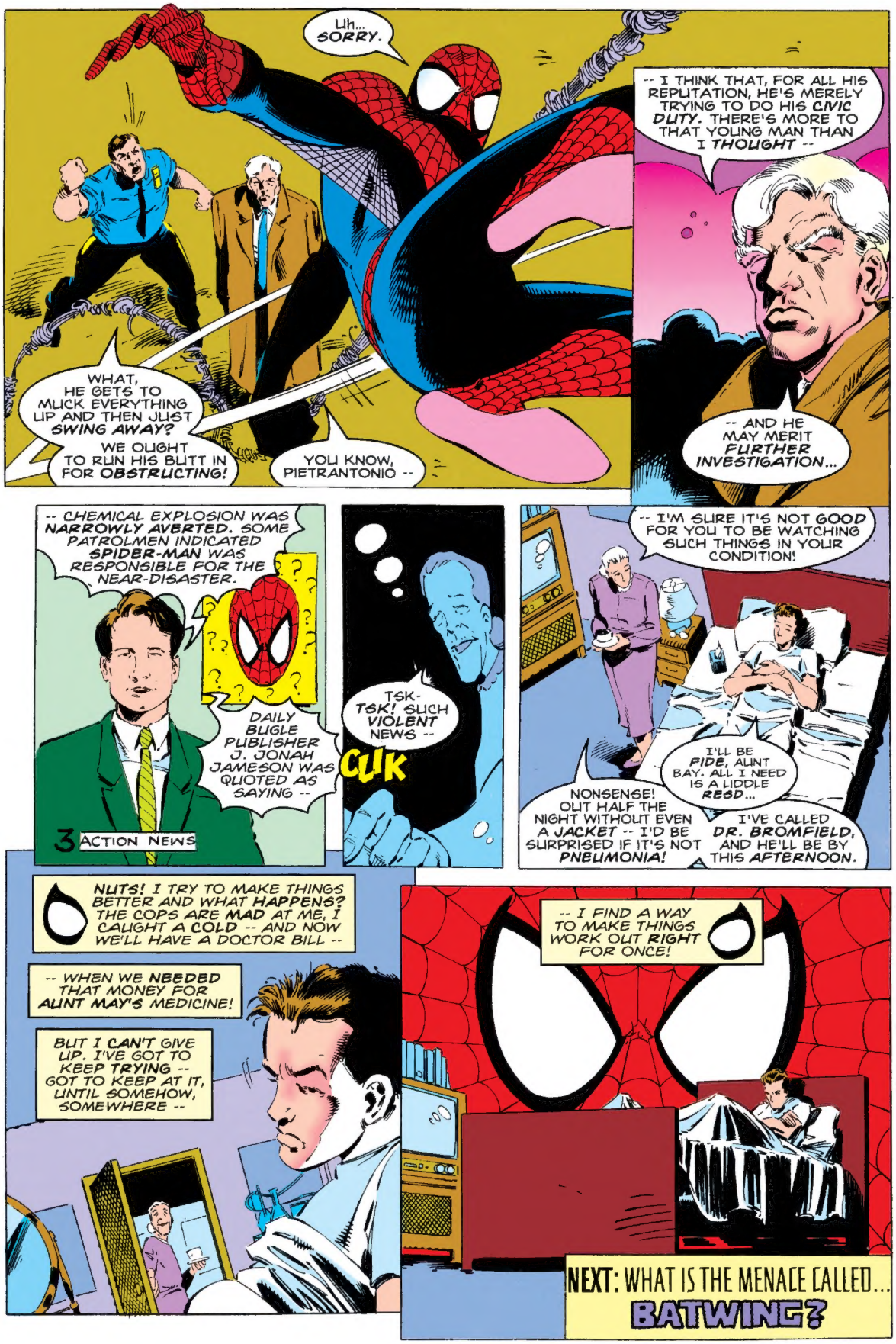
HOLD YOUR -:Koff:- HORSES, SCORCH!
OR ARE YOU IN A -:koff:- HURRY TO GET YOUR HEAD HANDED TO YOU?
HE'S ALMOST TOO HOT TO APPROACH -- AND WAY TOO HOT TO TOUCH--
KWHAM
-- SO I MAKE DO!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN MANAGE, SPIDER-MAN? GO AHEAD -- TRY AGAIN.
KRAMM
BRAKK
:KOFF:
KLUDD
:KOFF: :KOFF:
:KOFF: :KOFF:
IT'S NO GOOD --
-- THE HEAT'S TOO INTENSE -- PUSHING ME BACK -- INCINERATING MY WEBBING -- SMOKE INHALATION GETTING TO ME --

YOU'RE AN IDIOT, SPIDER-MAN!
EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE HAS PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS. I CAN KILL YOU, AND THEN JUST WALTZ OUT OF HERE --
-- WHILE THE COPS HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BURNING BUILDING!
HE'S RIGHT --
THE POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO CHASE HIM -- THEY'LL HAVE TO BE MAKING SURE RESIDENTS EVACUATE THE AREA!
OTHERWISE, ONCE THE FLAMES REACH THE CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS ON THE LOWER FLOORS --
-- THOUSANDS COULD DIE!
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
THE FIRE'S ALREADY BURNED THROUGH THE ROOF --
-- AND IT'S SPREADING FAST --
SO.
WHAT'LL IT BE? FLAME-BROILED -- OR SLOW-ROASTED?

TARTARE, THANKS!
FROOSH
YOU'VE ALREADY -:Koff:- LIGHTLY SEARED THE OUTSIDE -- AND I PREFER MY INSIDES -:Koff:- RAW!
I CAN BARELY MOVE --
-- BUT IF THOSE TANKS BLOW -- IF INNOCENT PEOPLE DIE --
-- IT'LL BE PARTLY MY FAULT, FOR STARTING THIS FIGHT --
LIE DOWN AND DIE, SPIDER-MAN!
THWIP
THWIP
NO --
-- I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
THAPP
I PULL WITH ALL MY MIGHT -- BUT MY STRENGTH'S ALMOST GONE --
-- I'M PRAYING THE FLAMES WEAKENED THE TOWER'S SUPPORTS --


-- AND THEY HAVE --
KRAK AK KK
SHLOOSH
TONS OF WATER SLAM DOWN, HITTING US LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER. I DUCK THE WORST OF IT, BUT IT STILL BATTERS ME NEARLY SENSELESS.
THE SCORCHER GETS IT WORSE, THOUGH. THE SUDDEN COLD SHATTERS HIS HELMET, CRACKS HIS ARMOR --

-- AND ONCE IT'S ALL OVER --
HEY, ANYBODY HERE LOOKING FOR A SLIGHTLY DRENCHED SUPER-VILLAIN? ALL PART OF THE SPIDEY SERVICE!
I ALSO PUT OUT FIRES!
THERE YOU ARE --
-- YOU BONEHEAD! YOU INCOMPETENT! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
Er, CAPTURED A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AND HIS GANG AFTER YOU COULDN'T HANDLE THEM?
EASY, PIETRANTONIO. I'LL HANDLE THIS.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE DISRUPTED A VERY CAREFULLY PLANNED OPERATION, SPIDER-MAN.
WHAT? I CAUGHT THE GUY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
THE SCORCHER WAS SUPPOSED TO ESCAPE. HE WAS WORKING FOR SOMEONE, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO --
-- SO WE DELIBERATELY LEFT A HOLE IN OUR CORDON, HOPING HE'D "ESCAPE" AND LEAD US TO THE REAL MASTERMIND.
NOW --
OSBORN
-- WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO WANTED THOSE ELECTRONICS PLANS --
-- OR FOR WHAT...


Uh... SORRY.
WHAT, HE GETS TO MUCK EVERYTHING UP AND THEN JUST SWING AWAY?
WE OUGHT TO RUN HIS BUTT IN FOR OBSTRUCTING!
YOU KNOW, PIETRANTONIO --
-- I THINK THAT, FOR ALL HIS REPUTATION, HE'S MERELY TRYING TO DO HIS CIVIC DUTY. THERE'S MORE TO THAT YOUNG MAN THAN I THOUGHT --
-- AND HE MAY MERIT FURTHER INVESTIGATION...
-- CHEMICAL EXPLOSION WAS NARROWLY AVERTED. SOME PATROLMEN INDICATED SPIDER-MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEAR-DISASTER.
DAILY BUGLE PUBLISHER J. JONAH JAMESON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING --
3 ACTION NEWS
TSK-TSK! SUCH VIOLENT NEWS --
CLIK
-- I'M SURE IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE WATCHING SUCH THINGS IN YOUR CONDITION!
I'LL BE FIDE, AUNT BAY. ALL I NEED IS A LIDDLE REST...
NONSENSE! OUT HALF THE NIGHT WITHOUT EVEN A JACKET -- I'D BE SURPRISED IF IT'S NOT PNEUMONIA!
I'VE CALLED DR. BROMFIELD, AND HE'LL BE BY THIS AFTERNOON.
NUTS! I TRY TO MAKE THINGS BETTER AND WHAT HAPPENS? THE COPS ARE MAD AT ME, I CAUGHT A COLD -- AND NOW WE'LL HAVE A DOCTOR BILL --
-- WHEN WE NEEDED THAT MONEY FOR AUNT MAY'S MEDICINE!
BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP. I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING -- GOT TO KEEP AT IT, UNTIL SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE --
-- I FIND A WAY TO MAKE THINGS WORK OUT RIGHT FOR ONCE!
NEXT: WHAT IS THE MENACE CALLED... BATWING?

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR
GLENN GREENBERG
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rememer when there was only *one* Spider-Man comic?

Many of you probably *don't* remember. Further, many of you probably weren't even *born* when the only home for Spider-Man's adventures was AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, which was launched in 1963 by the team of *Stan Lee* and *Steve Ditko*.

For its first few years, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN chronicled the earliest adventures of the wondrous web-slinger. Peter Parker was just a kid when he was bitten by that radioactive spider, a shy, outcast high school sophomore just beginning to learn about life, love and responsibility.

During their tenure together, Stan and Steve created wonderful, classic tales, ones that still hold up today and continue to inspire the current creative teams on the Spider-books. These tales covered many of the pivotal events of Spider-Man's early days. Many... but not *all*.

Which brings us to to the book you now hold in your hands.

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN takes us back to the Spider-Man of the Lee-Ditko era. As such, it is completely different from the other Spider-Man titles being produced today. Indeed, it is unlike any Spider-Man title *ever* produced. For one thing, it's the first and only Spider-Man book that does *not* take place in present-day continuity. This means that the star of this series is very different from the Spider-Man that can be found in the four "core" Spidey titles (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-MAN). He's much younger here, much less experienced, and many of the characters and places we'll be spotlighting in this series have not been seen in many years.

What's more, the timing for this series to be launched could not be better. UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN stars the one, true, original Peter Parker, long before the Jackal came along and created the clone that would change the Spider-Man mythos forever. Now that Ben (Scarlet Spider) Reilly knows that *he* is the original Peter Parker, and is pursuing his destiny in the four core titles, UNTOLD TALES serves as the perfect companion to those books, chronicling Ben's early adventures as Peter and Spider-Man.

We see the stories presented in UNTOLD TALES as the "lost episodes" of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: long-missing, recently-discovered adventures that fill in the gaps of Spider-Man's early history. We'll be expanding upon the Lee-Ditko canon and adding to it. We absolutely *won't* violate or tamper with it.

When this series was given the green light, and our creative team was in place, editor *Tom Brevoort*, Spider-Man Editor-in-Chief *Bob Budiansky* and I sat down and discussed what would be the best point in Spider-Man's history to start our run. Writer *Kurt Busiek* wanted to begin the stories as early in Spidey's career as possible, to latch onto the original AMAZING SPIDER-MAN continuity at a time when Peter was still new at the super hero game, with only a few major battles under his belt. Ultimately, Kurt's idea was deemed the best. For you historians out there, this first issue of UNTOLD TALES begins shortly after AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6, in which Spidey first encountered the Lizard. As the series progresses, we'll move forward through the original AMAZING SPIDER-MAN continuity a little bit at a time, paying attention to the events and situations from those early issues and using them as reference points as we tell our all-new stories. But readers shouldn't feel that they have to have read or even be aware of what happened in those early issues of AMAZING to enjoy UNTOLD TALES; we're striving to be a *very* reader-friendly book!

The *really* cool thing is that we plan to introduce characters (i.e. super-villains, supporting characters) here in UNTOLD TALES and then have them reappear in the core Spidey titles, establishing that many years have gone by since they last interacted with Peter or Spider-Man (which will explain why you never saw or heard of them before)! We've also discussed introducing characters into the core titles first, establishing that they have a past history with Peter or Spidey, and then detailing that history here in UNTOLD TALES. So there *will* be cross-pollination between our book and the Spider-books set in the present.

We're very proud of this first issue, and we will be striving to make each subsequent issue of UNTOLD TALES a memorable, exciting, *fun* book to read. Kurt Busiek is bursting with terrific story ideas, and penciler *Pat Olliffe* is without a doubt producing the best work of his career on this title, in conjunction with inker extraordinaire *Al Vey*. We hope you agree, and that you'll be letting us know what you think. We *will* have a letters page, and we welcome suggestions for what it should be called. Maybe we'll award a nifty prize for the best suggestion!

So start writing those letters, and be back with us next month as we present to you another untold tale of Spider-Man!

Glenn Greenberg
Assistant Editor

COMING UP IN UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN:

#2 THE COMING OF BATWING!

#3 SMASHED BY THE SANDMAN!